

ABSTRACT

A mechanism is provided to build and maintain a searchable database of communication content and related indicia information of all voice and multimedia (audio and video) communications in which a person participates using a broadband communication system. A personal communication module, either physical or logical, is coupled to a user's communication device, for example a telephone, and a broadband communication network. The module may capture all data associated with a communication, e.g., a phone conversation, and perform voice recognition on the voice or audio content of the communication, storing the content in a database for future reference. The communication data, including text of the voice or audio content of the communication, may be searched based on, for example, any word(s) spoken during the communication. In one variation, artificial intelligence may be used to identify and log the main keywords in the conversation. Keywords may be used to search the database for a particular communication. The module may store all of the content of the various communications, such as telephone conversations, in a database along with related data about the conversation, such as date, time, directory number, system address, and identity of the other endpoint or party. In another variation, the module may be controlled to only store one side of a two-way communication when one of the parties does not approve that the communication to be recorded. In a further variation of the invention, a mechanism may be included to allow users to record both ends of a communication, e.g., a telephone conversation, by getting permission from the other party or parties to the communication. In a first

PATENT APPLICATION

Attorney Docket No. 1999-0728

approach each party can initially enter an approval code which enables the stored communications module to store both sides of a communication from the very beginning of the communication. In another approach, both sides of the communication are also stored in the database, one unprotected (communications of an originating party) and one protected (communications from some other party). In a still further variation of the invention, the module may include an interactive portion which enables the user to actively or interactively enter particular keywords that he/she may use to search and find a stored communication.